



U.S. Senator Doug Jones– Alabama

United States Service Academy Nominations - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I attend an Academy? Admission to an Academy is a competitive two-step process:

Step 1. Obtain a Congressional or Presidential nomination

Step 2: Receive an appointment from the Academy

What is a nomination?

A nomination is made by an authorized source, under Title 10 of the US Code. Congressional nominations include selections made by 1) the **Vice President**, who nominates candidates from any part of the nation, 2) **US Senators**, who nominate candidates from their entire state, and 3) **US Representatives**, who nominate candidates that reside within their congressional district.

Because the nomination and appointment process is very competitive, we highly encourage you to apply for all the nominations for which you are eligible. Every candidate is eligible for up to four congressional nominations. Applicants can be nominated by both United States Senators in the state of their legal residence, the United States Representative from their residential district, and the Vice President.

What is an appointment?

An appointment allows you admission to an academy and is only granted by the individual academy AFTER an applicant has received a nomination (after competing with other nominees in the areas of academics, leadership potential and physical aptitude).

If you have any questions about the nomination application process or would like to ask questions, please contact the Academy Nominations Coordinator in my Birmingham office at (205) 895-4186, or in my Huntsville office at (256) 580-0979.

Applicants can be nominated by both United States Senators in the state of their legal residence, the United States Representative from their residential district, and the Vice President. It is encouraged that applicants apply for nomination from all four.

What are the basic eligibility requirements for a nomination?

To be eligible for a nomination, you must meet these requirements by July 1, 2021:

- Be at least 17 years old, but not past your 23rd birthday
- US Citizen
- Unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Reside within the legal boundaries of the Representative for which you are applying and of the State of Alabama. (If you are attending a service academy prep school, a university out of state, or have recently relocated to our State due to your parents' service in the military and maintain Alabama as your state of residence, you may still apply with our office.)

What is a Presidential nomination?

Presidential, or service-connected, nominations are reserved for children of career military personnel. To qualify, the parent must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be on active duty and have served continuously on active duty for at least eight years
- Be retired with pay or have been granted retired or retainer pay
- Be a reservist or National Guard member
- Have died after being retired with pay or granted retired or retainer pay
- Have begun adoption proceedings before the child 15th birthday

Contact the Academy in which you are interested in for specific instructions.

Can I apply for a nomination if I am active duty on the armed services or a reservist?

Yes, active duty service members meeting the basic eligibility requirements are eligible for the four congressional nominations, in addition to a nomination through their branch of the armed services. For more details, contact your commanding officer.

How many candidates can Senator Jones nominate?

Each member of congress typically has one vacancy per year at each Academy. Senator Jones utilizes the competitive method, and will nominate up to ten candidates for each vacancy.

When should I apply for a nomination?

You can start an application the spring semester of your junior year of high school. You can also apply after you graduate from high school, as long as you meet the basic eligibility requirements.

What are the qualifications you look for in applicants?

Candidates are evaluated in several areas: academics, extracurricular activities, personal motivation, character, leadership, and community service.

What information must be submitted with my application for a nomination?

A complete application includes your online application, two letters of recommendation, official high school/collegiate transcripts, and an official copy of your SAT or ACT scores.

The nomination application deadline for the class of 2025 is Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. CDT. This is an absolute deadline with no exceptions. All required information must be received by the deadline or the application will not be considered. **The website portal is the only method for application.**

Online Application

Senator Jones' application for nomination consists of eight important sections:

1. Identification and Personal Information
2. Personal Mission Statement
3. Resume
4. Official high school transcript
5. Educator Letter of Recommendation
6. General Letter of Recommendation
7. Include official SAT/ACT Scores (may be sent with your high school transcript)
8. A current class photo

You are encouraged to take the test as many times as necessary, as results will be super-scored for a composite score. The ACT and SAT codes to submit test scores to my office are as follows:

ACT code: 7101 and SAT code: 1795

Official test results should be sent directly to my office from an academic source or the testing agency or a high school transcript that includes the ACT/SAT scores. If you took the ACT or SAT before the deadline and have not received your scores, or are planning to take the tests after the deadline, please inform my Service Academy Coordinators before the Academy deadline. These scores are accepted as long as these are received two weeks before the interview date.

Who should complete my letters of recommendation?

Your letters should come from an educator, one of your high school educators who knows you. A general letter of recommendation should come from a second source, such as an employer, counselor, religious leader, or other professional connection. The online application will send a link to the person who is providing your letters of recommendation. **You will need an email address for each recommender to send them a link to your application.**

Just as in any other university application, whomever you ask to provide a letter of recommendation should be someone who is not a family member that can speak to your personal qualities and that has experience with measuring your performance in some way. Select people who can cite specific instances where you displayed the character and personality of someone fit for military service. A letter is provided on the Senator's portal that you may send to the recommender that describes the information that is needed.

Interview

As part of your nomination application, you are required to interview with a member of our office's committee. The interview will last approximately 15 minutes and may be conducted online. Essentially the interview is a way to make yourself stand out. While we receive your application and recommendations, this does not give us a true feel for who you are. Be prepared to give examples of your leadership experience.

Selections for recommendations are based on the quality of your whole application. This includes your community involvement, moral character, and leadership qualities.

If a nomination is not made, we encourage you to re-apply the following year, as academies allow for university transfers. Successful candidates represent 30 percent of students with one year of college under their belts when their belts.

What is the deadline for completing my nomination file?

All items must be received by Thursday, October 1, 2020. Because the process is competitive, material received after the deadline will not be accepted and you will not be considered for nomination.

Can I be nominated for more than one Academy?

It is possible to be nominated for more than one Academy. During your interview you will be asked what is an alternate choice. Your online application should give your first choice for a nomination.

Do I need a nomination to the US Coast Guard Academy?

No, the US Coast Guard Academy is the only service academy that does not require a congressional nomination. You can apply directly to the Academy by March 1, 2021, at www.uscga.edu.

Should I apply for an ROTC Scholarship?

Since the nomination and appointment process is competitive, not all candidates will receive a nomination or appointment. Consider earning a military commission via the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Additional information is available at:

- Air Force ROTC: <http://afrotc.com/scholarships/application/>
- Army ROTC: <http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/college-students.html>
- Naval ROTC: <http://www.navy.com/joining/education-opportunities/nrotc.html>

How will I know if I am nominated?

Nominations are determined by mid-December, and all candidates will be notified via letter and email.

Does a nomination guarantee an appointment?

No. A nomination is a selection made by an authorized source and allows a candidate to compete for an appointment. You must apply at the Academies in which you are interested in addition to applying for a nomination.



When will I know if I am appointed?

The Academies will begin making appointments in early 2021. All appointment offers are generally made by May 1 of each year.

Why should I participate in extracurricular activities?

Your participation in athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activities will help demonstrate your ability to meet the physical, time-management, and leadership demands of four years at an Academy. Maintaining the highest level of physical fitness in high school will benefit your application, as physical exercise is part of everyday life at an Academy. Participation in these activities, as well as a record of part-time employment, will help show your versatility and your ability to accept responsibility.

2020 Dates to Remember

July 31 - Online Application Process Opens

July 31 - Informational Tutorial on Senator Jones Academy Nominations page at
<https://www.jones.senate.gov/help/academy-nominations>

October 1 - Online Application Process Closes

November 7 – Interview date (by invitation only)

All questions about the academy application process should be directed to the service academies. They may be contacted through the information below:

United States Air Force

Director of Admissions
Colorado Springs, CO 82840-5651
(800) 443-9266
www.usafa.edu

United States Naval Academy

Candidate Guidance Office
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
(410) 293-4361
www.usna.edu

United States Military Academy (Army) at West Point

Admissions, Building 606
West Point, NY 10996
(845) 938-4041
www.usma.edu

United States Merchant Marine Academy

300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
www.usmma.edu

United States Coast Guard Academy*

31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-4195
(800) 883-USCG (8724)
www.cga.edu

- The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination.